

Antidotes to Envy • Parshat Korach

Korach, the rebellious rabble-rouser who challenges Moses' and Aaron's leadership in this week's parsha, is identified in *Pirkei Avot* as the

should have looked at his position of prominence in relation to the rest of the Israelites.

Gersonides adds another strategy: satisfaction with the qualities with which God had graced him. Wealth, as defined by Ben Zoma in *Pirkei Avot*, is being happy with your own portion (4:1). “Envy,” writes Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, “is the failure to understand the principle of creation as set out in Genesis 1, that everything has its place in the scheme of things. Each of us has our own task and our own blessings, and we are each loved and cherished by God” (“The Structure of the Good

Society,” *Covenant & Conversation*). It is this lack of faith in God’s plan, Rabbi Baruch Simon describes in his *Imrei Baruch*, which was the true root of Ko2 (v)10aKo2 (v)10plan, Rbi Bod” (ch w